Highway Coastal Corridor in Andhra Pradesh

2468. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action is being taken to build a highway coastal corridor, especially in Andhra Coast for speedy movement of traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work would be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to build a highway coastal corridor. Most of the States' coastal lines are already connected with National Highways. In Andhra Pradesh National Highways No.5 and 214 are on coastal corridor. National Highway No. 5 is being four laned under the Golden Quardrilateral component of National Highways Development Project. The work is targeted to be substantially completed by December, 2003.

Change in Number Plates of Vehicles

2469. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to change the number plates of vehicles in the country with a view to make them security fool-proof by February, 2003; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for the present change in the number plates for which the deadline had been fixed as July this year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the current order for changing the number plates could have been kept in abeyance till February, 2003, instead of causing inconvenience and avoidable expenditure to six crore vehicle owners in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. The new High Security Registration Plates which are scheduled to come into force from 28.2.2003 contain a number of security features such as:

(i) The registration number of vehicles shall be hot stamped and reflective sheet would be provided.

(ii) The plates would also bear the letter 'IND' in blue colour on the extreme left centre of the plate.

(iii) The rear plate shall be fastened with non-removable/non-reusable snap lock system.

(iv) In addition to the number plates at the front and rear of the motor vehicle, a third registration plate in the form of self-destructive chromium based sticker shall be affixed on the left hand top side of the wind shield of four- wheelers. The engine number, chasis number, registration number and name of registering authority shall also be given on the sticker.

(v) There shall be a chromium foil based hologram on the body of the registration plates.

Vehicles already registered have been given a lead time of two years thereafter to switch over to the new High Security Registration Plates.

(b) This scheme was originally to come into force from 28.9.2001. However, keeping in view the fact that neither any vendor had got approval for his product nor were the States ready, a decision was taken in consultation with the States to defer the introduction of the date of implementation of new High Security Registration Plates for motor vehicles from 28.9.2001 to 28.2.2003.

(c) Pending fitment of new high security registration plates, the change in the colour scheme on the existing registration plates *i.e.* letters and figures in black colour on yellow background in case of transport vehicles and in black colour on white background in case of other vehicles had been mandated on or before 1st February, 2002 in respect of transport vehicles and on or before 1st July, 2002 in other cases. This has been done as the new colour scheme offers maximum retro-reflectivity and visibility and also ensures safety of road users.

Construction of trans-asian road network

2470. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: